

said elongate arms being flexible in a radially inward and radially outward direction with respect to a longitudinal axis of said prosthetic liner; and

said elongate arms being formed of a predetermined material that is substantially nonstretchable in an axial direction;

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[whereby bending of the prosthetic liner in an anterior region thereof is not restricted by said elongate arms;]

Cancel
whereby said elongate arms and said distal attachment plate [collectively] cooperate with one another to spread the weight of a prosthesis attached to said distal attachment plate [over substantially all of an inner surface area of said prosthetic liner, said inner surface area being sufficiently large] to thereby reduce a negative pressure in pounds per square inch exerted by said prosthesis during the swing phase of a gait [to a sufficiently low negative pressure to substantially prevent milking of a residual limb].

REMARKS

This amendment is made prior to receipt of a Notice of Allowance and is accompanied by a Petition Extending Time and the appropriate fee. This amendment to claim 1 does not change the body of said claim. Instead, it is merely directed to the functional "whereby clauses" which add no patentable weight to the claim. Specifically, the first whereby clause is deleted because the term "bending" should be "flexibility" but this feature of the invention is so inherent in the invention and is so relatively unimportant as to be unworthy of mentioning in a whereby clause. The second and final whereby clause is amended because the term "milking" is not a term of art. Moreover, part of the explanation as to how the inventive structure operates is superfluous and could be misconstrued as overly limiting the invention. As amended, the final whereby clause recites the ultimate fact that the elongate arms and the distal attachment plate cooperate to spread the weight of the prosthesis to thereby reduce a negative pressure in pounds per square inch exerted by said prosthesis during the swing phase of a gait. This simplified whereby clause more succinctly describes the ultimate effect of the structure recited in the body of the claim. The Office is therefore requested to enter this Amendment B.